

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0039] FIG. 3 is a preferred embodiment of the cache server 36, in accordance with the present invention, that manages shared access to data files stored in the file server by multiple storage caches, such as the caches 30A and 30B, and also by workstations, such as the workstations 22E and 22F of the data center 20, which are not associated with a storage cache. The cache server is preferably a thin appliance having an architecture that makes it compatible and easily integrated with an existing distributed file system, such as NAS and SAN, implemented at a remote computer system and a data center computer system. See U.S. Patent No. 6,826,580 Serial No. 09/766,526, ~~filed January 19, 2001, assigned to the assignee of this application and incorporated by~~ reference herein.

[0091] Consequently, the storage cache can interact with multiple cache ~~servers~~ servers and easily can establish a communications link with the cache server of a back-up data center, should a communications link to the cache server of the primary data center fail. The end user at a workstation, however, does not experience or realize the disruption to the communications link when the primary data center fails, while attempts are made to re-establish a link to the primary data center or to a new link to the back-up data center and when the link is finally re-established to the primary data center. The previous state of the data file is automatically restored from the memory in a storage cache or cache server to ensure that coherency is always maintained and pending write-back data is not lost in the case of reboots or system restarts.